

Senate Resolution 199

By: Senator Williams of the 39th

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Commending the Congressional Caucus on Black Women & Girls and recognizing April 30,
- 2 2019, as Black Women & Girls Awareness Day at the state capitol; and for other purposes.
- 3 WHEREAS, members of Congress launched the Congressional Caucus on Black Women &
- 4 Girls to ensure a dedicated body to push forward public policy that eliminates significant and
- 5 often overlooked barriers and disparities that affect Black women and girls. The State of
- 6 Georgia is committed to partnership in these efforts to remove the distinct barriers affecting
- 7 more than 1.5 million Black women and girls living in the state and will promote policies
- 8 that provide fair, just, and equitable opportunities for their success; and
- 9 WHEREAS, even though Black women have been leaders at the forefront of many of
- 10 Georgia's achievements, when compared to other groups, Black women are
- 11 disproportionately affected by economic hardship. They earn 63 cents for every dollar
- 12 compared to their White male counterparts and are the largest group to be employed in
- 13 minimum wage jobs, which makes many Black women more susceptible to financial
- 14 insecurity and economic hardship; and
- 15 WHEREAS, Black women and girls represent 40 percent of all women incarcerated in the
- 16 State of Georgia but make up just 16 percent of the population. In addition, Black girls are
- 17 six times more likely to receive disciplinary referrals, suspensions, or expulsion from school
- 18 than their White counterparts and become victims of the school to prison pipeline; and
- 19 WHEREAS, twenty-one percent of Black women and girls in Georgia are uninsured. From
- 20 lack of attention to diseases that are disproportionately fatal to Black women and girls to lack
- 21 of options for and access to care, Black women and girls are overlooked in the discussion on
- 22 affordable, quality health care; and

23 WHEREAS, better protections are needed for Black women and girls who suffer from high  
24 rates of domestic violence and sexual assault and to reduce the incidences of Black women  
25 and girls being killed, made unsafe, or reported missing in our state; and

26 WHEREAS, Black women are the fastest growing electorate demographic, even though  
27 voter suppression tactics that limit access to the ballot disproportionately affect them. While  
28 Black women have made progress in gaining representation, they are largely  
29 under-represented at every level of government within the state and are therefore afforded  
30 minimal opportunity to shape policies affecting their lives.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
32 commend the Congressional Caucus on Black Women & Girls and recognize April 30, 2019,  
33 as Black Women & Girls Awareness Day at the state capitol.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
35 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the Congressional  
36 Caucus on Black Women & Girls.